Mr. Thomas O'Toole
Newsroom
Wash. Post
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Wash, D.C. 20005

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Frederick, Md. 21701
8.3.80

Dear Mr. O'Toole,

Your interesting story on the fleecing of OSS reminds me of several related matters of which I have personal knowledge from my own OSS days.

SI in Italy was thoroughly penetrated by the Nazis. The results were disasterous, particularly in terms of people lost. I don't know how much of this, if any, would be available under FOIA and I don't believe that Angleton would be anxious to talk about it. I don't know if he was in SI then. It might be interesting to see how many of those people later advanced in CIA.

We did capture the records of the Italian foreign office and they passed thorugh my hands, those that were sent to Washington. As I recall, they were on 35mm film. I am certain that these records included an ample factual basis for checking on the con men. They also did include what the then German ambassador, as I recall the name Baron von Wiesaker (phon), told the pope.

The Italian partisans gave us about 25 suitcases of records Mussolini had with him when they captured him. I was able to trace them to the Pentagon, where they seem to have disappeared.

For its own purposes the military lied to the State Department about captured Nazi records, especially political and diplomatic. I recall being called back from a brief visit with my family to help the State director of intelligence locate some, which I knew were in a salt mine at Marburg.

When the Army couldn't move Nazi political records out of what was to be the USSR's zone fast enough they destroyed them.

It is my recollection that the then pope was secretly pro-Axis, as reflected in these captured records and that he knew about and refused to intercede in the wholesale slaughters, which were not of Jews only.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg